

I oppose consolidation of media ownership

Re: Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I oppose media ownership consolidation.

I believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC--and, I understand, influenced by corporate lobbyists--vastly understate the bad effects of media deregulation and consolidation.

Media editors already edit news to avoid offending corporate sponsors (i.e., a story of an explosion at a Carson, Calif. oil refinery owned by a conglomerate advertising in the L.A. Times ran on page A-17, not page A-1, and not on the radio at all. I only found out about the explosion because a friend who lives near the Carson refinery suffered some window damage from the blast.) It will be much less costly for major corporations to influence a few media owners instead of lots of media owners.

Whoever offered corporate-backed but allegedly uninfluenced "viewpoints" at recent FCC hearings apparently did not FCC officials to hear the full story. The FCC should hold more hearings in venues where corporate lobbyists have less time or ability to control who says what to whom, let alone who addresses the panel.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely, Richard M. Boothe, Los Angeles, Calif.